



# SETRAC After-Action Report/Improvement Plan

July 17, 2021

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## EVENT OVERVIEW

<b>Event Name</b>	Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, Splashtown Chemical Incident 2021
<b>Event Dates</b>	July 17, 2021
<b>Scope</b>	A pool began to leak chemicals around 3 p.m., causing skin irritation, a burning sensation, and respiratory issues for dozens of visitors. The park was evacuated, and hazmat teams were called in to decontaminate multiple park goers of the chemicals
<b>Mission Area(s) and Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health Care and Medical Response Coordination</li><li>• Medical Surge</li></ul>
<b>Issue Areas</b>	Real-World Event Issues Areas for Coalition Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incident Command &amp; Resource Management</li><li>• Information Sharing &amp; Communications</li><li>• Medical Surge, Transportation Coordination, &amp; Evacuation</li></ul>
<b>Threat or Hazard</b>	Chemical Leak
<b>Point of Contact</b>	Lori Upton Vice president SETRAC 1111 North Loop West, Suite 160 Houston, TX 77008 Office: (281) 822-4450 Fax: (281) 822-4668 <a href="mailto:Lori.Upton@setrac.org">Lori.Upton@setrac.org</a>

## **Executive Summary**

Over 100 people were treated Saturday afternoon following a chemical leak at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Splashtown in Spring, Texas. A leak of hypochlorite and sulfuric acid, occurred near a kiddie pool located inside the park. 31 people were transported to area hospitals and another 55 individuals refused transport.

### **Major Strength**

The major strengths identified during this event are as follows:

1. The utilization of EMTrack by the receiving hospitals allowed for a fast and reliable identification of the patients whereabouts following the incident.
2. Capability of the staff to effectively communicate and call the hospitals directly in a timely manner to provide an overview of the incident and to notify them of pending patient transport to their facility with victims.

### **Primary Areas for Improvement**

Throughout the incident, opportunities for improvement in CMOC's ability to respond were identified. The primary areas for improvement, including recommendations, are as follows:

1. Information Sharing and mass notification. EMResource was out of service at the time of the incident leaving a gap in notification to the area healthcare facilities of the developing emergency situation.
2. Assigning and training personnel to utilize EMTrack for Mass Casualty Incidents.

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT METHODOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

SETRAC conducted an electronic report to solicit information from its' coalition members due to social distancing efforts during the pandemic response period. These return reports provided a platform for regional stakeholders to give feedback into operations during the incident. A summary of the feedback was compiled into the After-Action Report (AAR) which is submitted for approval by SETRAC Leadership and filed with the State of Texas.

## ANALYSIS OF HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS CAPABILITIES

Aligning healthcare preparedness capabilities provides a consistent taxonomy for evaluation of real-world events to support preparedness reporting and trend analysis. Table 1 includes aligned capabilities, and performance ratings for each capability as observed during the event and determined by incident command.

Objective	Healthcare Preparedness Capability	Performed without Challenges (P)	Performed with Some Challenges (S)	Performed with Major Challenges (M)	Unable to be Performed (U)
1. Employ a capability to communicate and ensure the timely delivery of accurate and up to date information across the healthcare coalition.	<b>Health Care and Medical Response Coordination</b>		X		
2. Provide situational awareness of medical surge capability and infrastructure and assist local jurisdictions as needed.	<b>Medical Surge</b>		X		

# CAPABILITIES AND TIMELINE

## Capability 2: Healthcare and Medical Response Coordination

**Objective:** Employ a capability to communicate and ensure the timely delivery of accurate and up to date information across the healthcare coalition.

### Strengths

The Partial capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

**Strength:** The utilization of EMTrack by the receiving hospitals allowed for a fast and reliable identification of the patients whereabouts following the incident.

### Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

**Area for Improvement:** Information Sharing and mass notification. EMResource was out of service at the time of the incident leaving a gap in notification to the area healthcare facilities of the developing emergency.

**Analysis:** When the incident first occurred several staff members took to EMResource to create a MCI notification. However, the system was down, and the mass communication could not be sent out directly to the regional and more importantly local receiving facilities.

## Capability 4: Medical Surge

**Objective:** Provide situational awareness of medical surge capability and infrastructure and assist local jurisdictions as needed.

### Strengths

The partial capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

**Strength:** Capability of the staff to effectively communicate and call the hospitals directly in a timely manner to provide an overview of the incident and to notify them of pending patient transport to their facility with victims.

## **Areas for Improvement**

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

**Area for Improvement:** Assigning and training personnel to utilize EMTrack for Mass Casualty Incidents.

**Analysis:** Staff members located at one or more local receiving hospitals were not able to effectively and efficiently enter the patients into EMTrack due the low number of trained personnel available at the time of the incident.

## **SECTION 4: CONCLUSION**

The chemical leak at the Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Splashtown came as a surprise, with no alarms sounding off. Patient decontamination was immediately established on scene and all park personnel located in the area of the leak were required to go through the decontamination site prior to leaving the park. Area receiving hospitals quickly initiated their individual decontamination activities and were able to successfully decontaminate arriving personnel from the incident site, ensuring the integrity of their facility and proper protection of staff personnel caring for the victims. A total of 31 personnel were transported to area hospitals two were considered Immediate, 23 Minor, six (6) were unspecified on their level of acuity, and no deaths were reported.



## APPENDIX A: IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This IP has been developed specifically for the SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council because of the Chemical leak at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Splashtown.

Capability	Issue/Area for Improvement	Corrective Action	Capability Element <sup>1</sup>	Primary Responsible Organization	Start Date	Completion Date
Capability 2: Healthcare and Medical Response Coordination	Information Sharing and mass notification. EMResource was out of service at the time of the incident leaving a gap in notification to the area healthcare facilities of the developing emergency.	Identify and implement a back-up mass communications platform to be utilized in the event of an outage with our primary means.	Operations	SETRAC Director of Response and Operations	Sep 27, 2021	Jan 1, 2022
Capability 4: Medical Surge	Assigning and training personnel to utilize EMTrack for Mass Casualty Incidents.	Identify and train additional staff at regional facilities for train-the-trainer capabilities.	Training	SETRAC Emergency Management Coordinators	Sep 27, 2021	On-going

<sup>1</sup> Capability Elements are: Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, or Event.

## **APPENDIX B: SIX FLAGS HURRICANE HARBOR SPLASHTOWN CHEMICAL RELEASE INCIDENT PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/FACILITIES**

HCA Houston Healthcare Tomball

Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands

HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest

Memorial Hermann The Woodlands

Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital Texas Medical Center

Memorial Hermann Health System

Texas Children's Hospital West Campus